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## **Honesty And School Taxes, Transphobic Ads and Awaiting GOP Triumph: Letters, Oct. 23, 2022**

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Begging for school tax OK, but be honest about it

In years of watching politics, I don't ever recall seeing a sleazier approach than the one Brevard Public Schools is employing now to pass its third tax hike in 8 years. The ballot language alone reads like something designed in a lab by Richard Nixon, Bernie Madoff and Mayor Quimby from "The Simpsons."

Voters are told the tax will be used to "ensure student achievement." Huh? This promise is both overconfident and hopelessly generic. How is achievement being measured? If Superintendent Mullins fails to ensure achievement, will he send us a refund? A Cato Institute study showed that a tripling of inflation-adjusted education spending since 1970 has had no impact whatsoever on student test scores. So why will this increase, which represents only 4% of a massive \$1.4 billion budget, be different?

Further, the politician-crafted ballot assures us these new funds will be reviewed by an "independent" oversight committee. But that committee is the opposite of independent; its members are appointed by the very same school board politicians whose conflicts of interest run longer than a CVS receipt.

The school board has a right to beg for new taxes. They don't have a right to do so with complete dishonesty.

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